

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claim 65 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 11, 13, 17, 66 and 67 as follows.

Please add new claims 74-78 as follows.

1-9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The mower head of claim 66 wherein said actuating member comprises a hydraulic cylinder and a piston, said cylinder including a chamber surrounding said piston.

11. (Currently Amended) The mower head of claim ~~65~~ 84 wherein one of said at least three sides comprises a plurality of angled sections.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) The mower head of claim ~~65~~ 84 wherein said deck further comprises a fourth side and at least three side walls, one depending from at least three of said four sides, wherein two of said at least three side walls are rigid.

14-16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) The mower head of claim ~~65~~ 84 wherein one of said at least three sides further comprises an extension which protrudes under said guard.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) The mower head of claim 69 wherein said actuating member comprises a hydraulic cylinder and a piston assembly.

20-38. (Canceled)

39. (Previously Presented) The mower head of claim 67, wherein said flap is a resilient, one-piece flap.

40. (Previously Presented) The mower head of claim 70, wherein said flap is a resilient, one-piece flap.

41-65. (Canceled)

66. (Currently Amended) The mower head of claim 65 84, further comprising an actuating member mounted on said deck.

67. (Currently Amended) The mower head of claim 66 84, further comprising a flap which depends from said guard.

68. (Previously Presented) A mower head comprising:
a deck comprising:
at least four sides and four corners, and
three side walls, one depending from each of three of said at least four sides, wherein two of said three side walls are rigid;
at least one cutting blade rotatably mounted to said deck on an axis extending through said deck, said deck being disposed above and generally parallel to said blade; and
a guard assembly comprising:

a hinge mounted to and extending at an angle in relation to two adjacent ones of said at least four sides of said deck,
a guard pivotally attached to said deck via said hinge, and
said guard including a plurality of discretely angled sections which angled sections together form a single corner of said deck.

69. (Previously Presented) The mower head of claim 68, further comprising an actuating member mounted on said deck.

70. (Previously Presented) The mower head of claim 68, further comprising a flap which depends from said guard and is movable in relation to said guard

71. (Previously Presented) The mower head of claim 70, wherein said flap is oriented in a plane spaced apart from a plane of said guard.

72. (Previously Presented) A mower head comprising:
a deck having at least four sides including a front side;
a boom arm to which said deck is mounted, said boom arm being positioned adjacent a first side edge of said mower head;
a guard assembly comprising:
a hinge extending at an angle between said front side and an adjacent one of said sides of said deck; and
a guard pivotally attached to said deck via said hinge, said guard being positioned adjacent a second side edge of said mower head, said second side edge being located opposite said first side edge.

73. (Previously Presented) A mower head comprising:
a deck having four sides;

at least one cutting blade rotatably mounted to said deck on an axis extending through said deck, said deck being disposed above and generally parallel to said blade;

a guard assembly comprising a guard pivotally attached to said deck via a hinge which extends between two adjacent ones of said four sides of said deck such that said guard is positioned in a first corner of said deck; and said guard being selectively pivotable to a position above a plane of said deck; and

wherein said deck comprises a second corner, located adjacent said guard assembly, said second corner comprising two side walls which are rigid and non-moving, wherein a first side of said deck includes both said first corner and said second corner.

74. (New) The mower head of claim 72 further comprising an actuating member mounted on said deck.

75. (New) The mower head of claim 74 wherein said actuating member comprises a hydraulic cylinder and a piston.

76. (New) The mower head of claim 72 further comprising a flap which depends from said guard.

77. (New) The mower head of claim 72 further comprising a side wall which depends from said deck front side.

78. (New) The mower head of claim 72 wherein said guard comprises a plurality of discretely angled sections.

79. (New) The mower head of claim 73 further comprising an actuating member mounted on said deck.

80. (New) The mower head of claim 79 wherein said actuating member comprises a hydraulic cylinder and a piston.

81. (New) The mower head of claim 73 further comprising a flap which depends from said guard.

82. (New) The mower head of claim 73 further comprising a side wall which depends from said deck first side.

83. (New) The mower head of claim 73 wherein said guard comprises a plurality of discretely angled sections.

84. (New) A mower head comprising:
a deck having at least three sides and including a front side;
at least one cutting blade rotatably mounted to said deck;
a guard assembly comprising:
a hinge extending at an angle between said front side and an adjacent side of said deck;
a guard pivotally attached to said deck via said hinge, said guard forming a first front corner of said deck, said first front corner being movable in relation to said deck; and
wherein said deck comprises a second front corner which is non-movable in relation to said deck, said second front corner being defined by said front side and an adjacent side of said deck.